

I claim

1. A method of reconciling records of resource consumption at a plurality of resource consumption sites for incorporation into aggregate business records of the resource consumption at a target site, comprising the steps of:
  - a. collecting and recording resource consumption at resource consumption sites;
  - b. reconciling records of resource consumption between the resource consumption sites and the target site; and
  - c. aggregating the records of resource consumption into aggregate business records of the resource consumption at the target site.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the aggregate business records of the resource consumption at the target site comprise billing records.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1 comprising aggregating reconciled records of resource consumption into aggregate business records of the resource consumption at the target site.
- 20 4. The method of claim 1 comprising aggregating the records of resource consumption into aggregate business records of the resource consumption at the target site and thereafter reconciling the aggregated records at the target site.
- 25 5. The method of claim 1 comprising reconciling the records in a reconciliation session comprising
  - a. retrieving the logs from the resource consumption feeder and interim control points;
  - b. comparing at least one of:

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- i. resource consumption totals in the records from the resource consumption feeders with the resource consumption totals in the aggregated records at the target site; and
  - ii. total number of resource consumption records forwarded from the resource consumption feeders with the total number of resource consumption records aggregated at the target site;
- c. issuing a notification, if an error is discovered; and
- d. continuing comparing records until all records are reconciled if no errors are detected.

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- 6. The method of claim 5 comprising reconciling the records in a reconciliation session comprising
  - a. logging the reconciliation session start time,
  - b. retrieving the last session start time, and
  - 15 c. retrieving the logs from the resource consumption feeder and interim control points;
  - d. comparing at least one of:
    - i. resource consumption totals in the records from the resource consumption feeders with the resource consumption totals in the aggregated records at the target site; and
    - ii. total number of resource consumption records forwarded from the resource consumption feeders with the total number of resource consumption records aggregated at the target site;
  - e.. issuing a notification, logging session status, and ending the reconciliation if an error is discovered; and
  - 25 f. continuing comparing records, issuing a report, and logging session status if no errors are detected until all records are reconciled.

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7. The method of claim 1 wherein the resource comprises electrical kilowatt hours.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein the resource comprises telephone connect time.
- 5 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the resource comprises liquids and gases chosen from the group consisting of fuels, chemical feedstocks, and water.
- 10 10. The method of claim 2 wherein the aggregate business records are chosen from the group consisting of transfer records and invoices.
- 15 11. A processor system configured and controlled for reconciling resource consumption records, said processor being between a plurality of resource consumption sites and an resource consumption record aggregation target site, for incorporation into aggregate business records of the resource consumption at the target site, by a process comprising the steps of:
  - a. collecting and recording resource consumption at resource consumption sites;
  - b. reconciling records of resource consumption between the resource consumption sites and the target site; and
  - c. aggregating the records of resource consumption into aggregate business records of the resource consumption at the target site.
- 20 12. The processor system of claim 11 wherein the aggregate business records of the resource consumption at the target site comprise billing records.
- 25 13. The processor system of claim 11 wherein the reconciliation process comprises aggregating reconciled records of resource consumption into aggregate business records of the resource consumption at the target site.

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14. The processor system of claim 11 wherein the reconciliation process comprises aggregating the records of resource consumption into aggregate business records of the resource consumption at the target site and thereafter reconciling the aggregated records  
5 at the target site.

15. The processor system of claim 11 wherein the reconciliation process comprises reconciling the records in a reconciliation session comprising  
a. retrieving the logs from the resource consumption feeder and interim control  
10 points;  
b. comparing at least one of:  
i. resource consumption totals in the records from the resource consumption feeders with the resource consumption totals in the aggregated records at the target site; and  
15 ii. total number of resource consumption records forwarded from the resource consumption feeders with the total number of resource consumption records aggregated at the target site;  
c. issuing a notification, if an error is discovered; and  
d. continuing comparing records until all records are reconciled if no errors are  
20 detected.

16. The processor system of claim 15 wherein the reconciliation process comprises reconciling the records in a reconciliation session comprising  
a. logging the reconciliation session start time,  
25 b. retrieving the last session start time, and  
c. retrieving the logs from the resource consumption feeder and interim control points;  
d. comparing at least one of:

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- i. resource consumption totals in the records from the resource consumption feeders with the resource consumption totals in the aggregated records at the target site; and
- ii. total number of resource consumption records forwarded from the resource consumption feeders with the total number of resource consumption records aggregated at the target site;

5           e.. issuing a notification, logging session status, and ending the reconciliation if an error is discovered; and

10          f. continuing comparing records, issuing a report, and logging session status if no errors are detected until all records are reconciled.

17. The processor system of claim 11 wherein the resource comprises electrical kilowatt hours.

15       18. The processor system of claim 11 wherein the resource comprises telephone connect time.

19. The processor system of claim 11 wherein the resource comprises liquids and gases chosen from the group consisting of fuels, chemical feedstocks, and water.

20       21. The processor system of claim 12 wherein the aggregate business records are chosen from the group consisting of transfer records and invoices.

25       21. A signal bearing medium tangibly embodying a program of machine-readable instructions executable by a digital processing system to reconcile records of resource consumption at a plurality of resource consumption sites for incorporation into aggregate business records of the resource consumption at a target site, by a method comprising the steps of:

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- a. collecting and recording resource consumption at resource consumption sites;
- b. reconciling records of resource consumption between the resource consumption sites and the target site; and
- c. aggregating the records of resource consumption into aggregate business records of the resource consumption at the target site.

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22. The signal bearing medium of claim 21 wherein the aggregate business records of the resource consumption at the target site comprise billing records.

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23. The signal bearing medium of claim 21 wherein the method comprises aggregating reconciled records of resource consumption into aggregate business records of the resource consumption at the target site.

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24. The signal bearing medium of claim 21 wherein the method comprises aggregating the records of resource consumption into aggregate business records of the resource consumption at the target site and thereafter reconciling the aggregated records at the target site.

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25. The signal bearing medium of claim 21 wherein the method comprises reconciling the records in a reconciliation session comprising

- a. retrieving the logs from the resource consumption feeder and interim control points;
- b. comparing at least one of:

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- i. resource consumption totals in the records from the resource consumption feeders with the resource consumption totals in the aggregated records at the target site; and

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- ii. total number of resource consumption records forwarded from the resource consumption feeders with the total number of resource consumption records aggregated at the target site;
  - c. issuing a notification, if an error is discovered; and
- 5 d. continuing comparing records until all records are reconciled if no errors are detected.

26. The signal bearing medium of claim 25 wherein the method comprises reconciling the records in a reconciliation session comprising

- 10 a. logging the reconciliation session start time,
- b. retrieving the last session start time, and
- c. retrieving the logs from the resource consumption feeder and interim control points;
- d. comparing at least one of:
  - 15 i. resource consumption totals in the records from the resource consumption feeders with the resource consumption totals in the aggregated records at the target site; and
  - ii. total number of resource consumption records forwarded from the resource consumption feeders with the total number of resource consumption records aggregated at the target site;

20 e.. issuing a notification, logging session status, and ending the reconciliation if an error is discovered; and

f. continuing comparing records, issuing a report, and logging session status if no errors are detected until all records are reconciled.

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27. The signal bearing medium of claim 21 wherein the resource comprises electrical kilowatt hours.

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28. The signal bearing medium of claim 21 wherein the resource comprises telephone connect time.
29. The signal bearing medium of claim 21 wherein the resource comprises liquids and gases chosen from the group consisting of fuels, chemical feedstocks, and water.
- 5 30. The signal bearing medium of claim 22 wherein the aggregate business records are chosen from the group consisting of transfer records and invoices.